

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 090230
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: IO/UNP:JFTEFFT:MR

APPROVED BY:IO:MESWOPE

S/S:APSHANKLE

AF/S:PSMITH

-----221928Z 068106 /46

R 212112Z APR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T STATE 090230

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT LUSAKA 1000 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON APR
15, 1977

QTE S E C R E T LUSAKA 1000

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR ZA RH UK

SUBJ: ZAMBIA MAY BE SELLING POWER TO RHODESIA

1. THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION HAS SHARED WITH US SOME SENSITIVE
INFORMATION WHICH IT HAS RECENTLY DEVELOPED ON THE DISTRIBUTION
OF POWER GENERATED AT KARIBA.

2. UNTIL RECENTLY ZAMBIA RECEIVED POWER GENERATED ON THE SOUTH
SIDE OF THE KARIBA DAM IN RHODESIA. THE POWER WAS USED LARGELY
TO OPERATE THE MINES IN THE COPPERBELT. IN MAY OF LAST YEAR
THE TURBINES ON THE NORTH SHORE STATION FINANCED BY THE WORLD

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 090230

BANK CAME INTO OPERATION AND ZAMBIA SUDDENLY FOUND ITSELF WITH
A POWER SURPLUS. SINCE THEN IT HAS AGREED TO SUPPLY RHODESIA
WITH POWER DURING PEAK PERIODS. IT'S CHARGE IS HIGH--A REPORTED
50 CENTS U.S. PER UNIT. BUT IT IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE RHODESIA
CAN SUPPLEMENT ITS POWER NEEDS UP TO WHAT IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE
A 300 MEGAWATT SURGE LIMIT. PAYMENTS FOR THE POWER TRANSFERRED
TO RHODESIA ARE MADE TO A NEW YORK BANK. THEY ARE RUNNING AT

A RATE OF ABOUT 7.5 MILLION DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

3. THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS INFORMATION FROM THE BRITISH POINT OF VIEW IS ITS POTENTIAL HAS A COUNTER ARGUMENT IF THEY ARE PRESSED TOO FAR IN DEFENSE OF WESTERN OIL COMPANIES ACCUSED OF SUPPLYING OIL TO RHODESIA IN VIOLATION OF U.N. SANCTIONS. IT IS THE EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CENTRAL AFRICAN POWER COMMISSION AS A REGIONAL ORGANIZATION WAS SPECIFICALLY EXEMPTED BY THE U.N. FROM APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS. THEREFORE ZAMBIA WOULD NOT TECHNICALLY BE VIOLATING U.N. SANCTIONS THROUGH THE TRANSFER OF POWER TO RHODESIA. NEVERTHELESS A CONSISTENT PATTERN OF TRANSFER TO RHODESIA OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF ENERGY IN RETURN FOR MONETARY RECOMPENSE WHICH RESULTED IN PROVIDING A BADLY NEEDED SOURCE OF ENERGY IN SUPPORT OF RHODESIA'S WAR EFFORT WOULD CERTAINLY DAMAGE ZAMBIA'S MORAL POSITION IF IT BECAME KNOWN PUBLICLY.

4. THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS HIGHLY SENSITIVE AND HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN DEVELOPED BY THE BRITISH. FURTHER CONFIRMATION AND DETAIL IS NEEDED. THEY HAVE NOT DECIDED TO USE IT IN ANY FORM YET AND WOULD BE DISTRESSED BY ANY LEAK OF THE INFORMATION. IT SHOULD, THEREFORE, BE CAREFULLY GUARDED FOR THE TIME BEING.
LOW UNQTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, ELECTRIC POWER, SANCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE090230
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/UNP:JFTEFFT:MR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770141-0044
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770432/aaaabbke.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cd4130a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2733934
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAMBIA MAY BE SELLING POWER TO RHODESIA
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, ETRD, ZA, RH, UK
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cd4130a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009